(b) if so, whether Government have worked out any strategy to boost trade with Nepal and also increase investment there; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Both Governments hold frequent mutual consultations at various levels on measures to promote bilateral trade and investment.

Units for Gold Jewellery Manufaclure set-up by MMTC

*657. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC has entered into gold jewellery manufacture in a big way;

(b) if so, the number of units proposed to be set up by MMTC for this purpose;

(c) the total amount of investment proposed to be made by MMTC in each of these units;

(d) whether it is a part of MMTC's diversification programme; and

(e) the details of the other areas where MMTC proposes to start its business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

(e) MMTC has entered into Joint Ventures in areas such as aquaculture (marine products) and agro products and also proposes to diversify in areas such as jewellery, textiles, trade related infrastructure etc.

Wage Settlement between ITPO and Employees Union

*658. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA-SWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a wage settlement has been arrived at between ITPO and the Emp loyees Union;

(b) whether service conditions and harmonious relations between management and employees and officers was also discussed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A wage revision settlement defining scope and coverage, period of the agreement, minimum wages, pay scales, allowances, advances, medical expenses, discipline & punctuality, productivity and harmonious industrial relations, implementation aspects etc has been signed between ITPO management and ITPO (ex-TFAI) Employees Union on 24-4-95.

Failure in producing good quality Coal

*659. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has totally failed in producing good quality coal;

(b) if so. the reasons therefor;

(c) whether one of the reasons is lack of commitment of top management to work at area/mine leves;

(d) whether Government would consider involvement of a team of retired eminent Mining Engineers who could be entrusted with the task of improving the quality of coal by changing of mining method in opencast mining and underground mining;